

I have long admired Wendy for her dedication to our community, particularly with respect to safeguarding the environment. She is committed to making the world a better place and ensuring that future generations of Americans will inherit a thriving and healthy planet.

Wendy has worked on both the national and local level to protect the environment—on issues ranging from conservation to climate change and the impact of environmental policies on the developing world. She is highly knowledgeable about current environmental issues and a passionate advocate for positive change.

Wendy is a member of the National Council of Environmental Defense, an organization that finds ways to preserve our environment while also strengthening the economy, such as market incentives that reward governments and businesses for lowering pollution levels.

In addition, Wendy is a member of the National Advisory Council of the Sierra Club Foundation, which is dedicated to preserving wildlife and promoting responsible use of the Earth's ecosystems and resources.

Wendy's interests and influence reach beyond environmental concerns to include other matters important in our community. For example, she has been an active participant in the Holocaust Education Foundation and is an owner of Medline Industries, Inc., a private medical equipment distributor. Wendy has always expressed a strong interest in effective health care reform as well as a broad array of other important public policy initiatives.

Mr. Speaker, Wendy Abrams is helping to make the world a safe and healthy place for our children. I am proud to call Wendy a good friend, and I thank her for her contributions to public service. I wish Wendy, her husband Jimmy, and their four children continued good fortune on the occasion of her 40th birthday.

#### COMMENDING WHITKO HIGH SCHOOL ART STUDENTS

#### HON. MARK E. SOUDER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 6, 2004*

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the artistic achievements of students at Whitko High School in South Whitley, Indiana. Whitko High School was one of 11 schools in the United States that recently participated in the 35th World School Children's Art Exhibition in the Republic of China, Taipei. The purpose of the exhibition is to promote mutual understanding and friendship among the younger generation of the world.

It is a tremendous honor for Whitko High School students to be recognized for their artistic abilities on an international level, especially considering 47 countries were represented at the exhibition.

I'd now like to recognize by name each of the eight Whitko students who participated in the competition: Renae Banks, Julianne Haines, Wendy Chalk, Amanda Crosser, Callista Duggins, Kylee Brown, Jill Wendel, and Shannon Sleighter. Two of these students—Julianne Haines and Shannon Sleighter—were recognized by the World School Children's Art Exhibition for their outstanding artistic skill and talent and were awarded selected medals for their work. I send them my sincere congratulations.

I also commend Whitko High School's art teacher Walter C. Malicki for his dedication and enthusiasm. Under his guidance, Whitko High School students have received 32 national and 97 international awards. These honors are due, in large part, to Mr. Malicki's leadership and the encouragement he gives each of his students.

Once again, I extend my congratulations to the Whitko High School art students for their achievements in the 35th World School Children's Art Exhibition.

#### TRIBUTE TO THE EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT CELEBRATING 70 YEARS OF REGIONAL PARKS

#### HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 6, 2004*

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, my East Bay California colleagues Mr. GEORGE MILLER, Mrs. ELLEN TAUSCHER, and Ms. BARBARA LEE, join with me to recognize the 70th anniversary of the East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD), headquartered in Oakland, California. The Park District spans Alameda and Contra Costa Counties and encompasses 1,745 square miles on the eastern side of San Francisco.

In 1934, a unique "regional park" concept, unheard of at the time, was presented to the voters on a November ballot measure. A vote for the proposed new Park District meant an increased five-cent tax on every \$100 worth of property. Even in the economic hardships of the Great Depression, where a nickel still went a long way, citizens approved the initiative by a 2½ to 1 margin and the Park District was created.

The East Bay Regional Park District opened its first three parks in 1936, which included present-day Tilden Regional Park, Sibley Volcanic Preserve and Lake Temescal. Redwood Park was added to the list of parks a few years later.

In the intervening years, the Park District grew from seven cities—Alameda, Albany, Berkeley, Emeryville, Oakland, Piedmont and San Leandro—to encompass all of Alameda and Contra Costa counties.

Today, the East Bay Regional Park District is the largest local park agency in the United States. It encompasses over 95,000 acres of parkland in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties for outdoor recreation, wildlife habitat, and nature education.

The Park District's vision is to "preserve a priceless heritage of natural and cultural resources, open space, parks and trails for the future and will set aside park areas for enjoyment and healthful recreation for generations to come. EBRPD states "an environmental ethic guides us in all that we do."

The Park District's core mission is to "acquire, develop, manage, and maintain a high quality, diverse system of interconnected parklands which balances public usage and education programs with protection and preservation of our natural and cultural resources."

The vision and mission of the East Bay Regional Parks continues to be achieved with commitment and efficiency. For 70 years, the East Bay Regional Parks has been dedicated to preserving open space and offering enjoy-

able and healthy recreation opportunities for local residents.

We join in honoring the individuals whose vision created an unprecedented Regional Park System and the individuals who continue to ensure the East Bay Regional Park District's success.

#### IN MEMORY OF DOLLY NASH, A DISTINGUISHED AMERICAN

#### HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 6, 2004*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise to remember a distinguished South Carolinian, Janet Dolly Nash. Dolly Nash and her husband always flew the American flag at their home in Beaufort, South Carolina. She was a proud American. Not long ago, Dolly "passed" (a term often used in my state). She died in Cape May, New Jersey, a community with which Beaufort shared her. A retired school teacher, Dolly gave of her wide knowledge to many others—others who will remember her and her lessons of life.

Dolly Nash believed it was her mission to promote the legacy of her great grandfather, Robert Smalls, a legend in the Beaufort area. Despite his status as a slave of only 23 years of age, Robert Smalls learned to be a pilot in Charleston Harbor. During the Civil War, he "commandeered" the Confederate vessel *Planter* and delivered it to Union forces. He rose to the rank of major general in the South Carolina militia. After the war he founded the Republican Party in the Beaufort area and was elected to the United States House of Representatives. In April of this year, the Army Supply Ship, *Major General Robert Smalls*, was christened in Mississippi, the first Army vessel to bear the name of a black American.

"Dolly was everywhere, just like sunshine," says Delores Nevils of St. Helena, South Carolina, a close friend of Dolly's and herself a fine American. In a recent article in the Beaufort Gazette, Mrs. Nevils extolled Dolly and described her extensive service to her community. As Mrs. Nevils described it, at her 75th birthday party, Dolly gave gifts rather than received them. Dolly Nash gave many gifts to many people in her lifetime. She herself was a gift to the people of Beaufort, of South Carolina and of America. I would like to share with you the memory of Dolly Nash.

#### TRIBUTE TO SHIRLEY CONNOLLY

#### HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 6, 2004*

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Shirley Connolly, who was recently honored with the prestigious St. Madeleine Sophie Medal by the Schools of the Sacred Heart in Atherton, California.

Shirley was born in Helena, Montana and became a San Franciscan at the age of seven. She graduated from the San Francisco College for Women, better known as Lone Mountain College, with a Bachelor's Degree in History and World Literature, and later received a Master's from Lone Mountain in